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Draft report**Addendum**

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Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))**Programme 15. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**

1. At its 15th meeting, on 16 June 2000, the Committee considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme and especially for the three major themes of regional economic cooperation, poverty alleviation and environment and natural resources development. Satisfaction was expressed regarding the quality of the narrative in the fascicle and the proposed structure of the programme, which comprises seven interdependent and complementary subprogrammes with balanced strategies and expected accomplishments.
4. It was considered necessary to establish a balance between traditional and electronic methods of disseminating information to meet the needs of various countries, in particular, the least developed countries, landlocked countries and island developing countries.
5. There were many best practices in the region to follow and references to them should be included in the paragraphs on strategy, accomplishments and indicators. It



was also observed that the words "achieving good governance" should be deleted from paragraph 15.21 (c). Another view was that the words "good governance" should be retained, as they reflected an agreed terminology.

6. It was considered that there may be some duplication of activities between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and some other organizations and/or programmes of the United Nations system. In this context, the need for improved cooperation and coordination of activities was stressed.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Insert the recommendations of the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, as follows:

(i) Paragraph 15.8

In subparagraph (a), after the word "environment", insert the words "as well as developments in information technology";

(ii) Paragraph 15.11

In point (b), after the words "industrial promotion;" delete the word "and"; in the last line of point (c), after the words "economies in transition" insert a new point, reading "and (d) positive evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of ESCAP outputs and services by the users, including Governments";

(iii) Paragraph 15.12,

After the word "processes" insert the phrase ", as well as developments in information technology";

(iv) Paragraph 15.13

In subparagraph (b), after the word "globalization", insert the phrase "and developments in information technology"; in subparagraph (c), after the word "liberalization", insert the phrase ", as well as developments in information technology"; in subparagraph (e), add a new final sentence, reading "In this connection, emphasis will be placed on analytical work on economic and financial monitoring and surveillance in the region, in close consultation with international and financial institutions, in order to respond in a timely way to new challenges arising from globalization.";

(v) Paragraph 15.15

Replace the existing text of point (d) with the following:

"positive evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of ESCAP outputs and services by the users, including Governments.";

(vi) Paragraph 15.17

Subparagraph (a), in the first sentence, replace the phrase "including older persons and people living with disabilities" with the phrase "with greater

focus on people living with disabilities, and including older persons”; at the end of the subparagraph, replace the phrase “and accessibility in the physical environments” with the phrase “by improving access to the physical environment, infrastructure and information technology”; add a new subparagraph, as follows:

“(d) The above will be achieved through (i) the promotion of wider information exchange through intergovernmental and expert group meetings, technical publications and increased use of media and information technology; (ii) support for national institution-building initiatives, including human resources development through group training and advisory services; and (iii) the strengthening of regional networks and cooperation, especially with other United Nations and subregional intergovernmental bodies.”;

(vii) Paragraph 15.21

In subparagraph (b), after the words “in 1994”, insert the phrase “the recommendations arising from the General Assembly special session on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (“Cairo + 5”)”;

(viii) Paragraph 15.24

At the end of point (c) delete the word “and”; add “and (d) positive evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of ESCAP outputs and services by the users, including Governments.”;

(ix) Paragraph 15.25

After the word “1997”, insert the phrase “the outcome of the 10-year review of Agenda 21 (“Rio + 10”) scheduled to be held in 2002”;

(x) Paragraph 15.29

Replace the text of point (a) with the following: “positive evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of ESCAP outputs and services by the users, including Governments”;

(xi) Paragraph 15.34

At the end of point (e) delete the word “and”; at the end of the paragraph, add the following: “; and (g) positive evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of ESCAP outputs and services by the users, including Governments.”;

(xii) Paragraph 15.38

At the end of point (c), delete the word “and”; at the end of the paragraph, add the following: “(e) positive evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of ESCAP outputs and services by the users, including Governments.”;

(b) Overall orientation

(i) Paragraph 15.1

After the words “thus contribute to”, insert the words “sustained economic growth and”;

(ii) Paragraph 15.2

Insert a reference to General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions on integrated follow up to major United Nations conferences, in particular, General Assembly resolutions 53/183 on implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; 54/23 on implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development; 54/141 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform of Action; 54/209 on follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); 54/218 on implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly; 54/224 on implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing Countries; and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/55 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits;

(iii) Paragraph 15.4

After the words "information and experience" insert the phrase "particularly on the best practices in the region";

(iv) Paragraph 15.5

In the first sentence, after the words "island developing countries" insert "transit developing countries";

(c) Paragraph 15.13

(i) Insert a new subparagraph (b) reading "(b) To institute a mechanism for monitoring and surveillance of the economic and financial situation of the countries of the region to provide information to members and associate members of ESCAP of an impending crisis in the region", and reletter the subsequent subparagraphs;

(ii) In subparagraph (b), after the word "globalization" insert "particularly in the areas of trade, information technology, intellectual property rights and bio-technology";

(iii) In subparagraph (c), in line 3, after the words "Least Developed Countries for the 1990s", insert "and also the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries";

(iv) In subparagraph (d), at the end of the subparagraph, replace the words "aid donors" with "development partners";

(d) Paragraph 15.16

After the words "World Summit for Social Development", insert "and its review outcome";

(e) Paragraph 15.20

Replace the words "alleviation of poverty" with "eradication of poverty";

(f) Paragraph 15.21

(i) In subparagraph (b), replace the words "alleviating poverty" with "eradicating poverty"; after the words "at Cairo in 1994", insert "and its review outcome";

(ii) In subparagraph (c), replace the words "achieving good governance and" with the word "the", and replace the words "poverty alleviation" with "poverty eradication";

(iii) At the end of subparagraph (d), insert the words "and its review outcome";

(g) Paragraph 5.36

At the end of subparagraph (a), insert the phrase " , including through networking of national, subregional and regional information systems".
